

Post-CMA Exam

By Bassel Karami



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I will never forget that day in late 2007 when I made a decision to pursue the CMA® (Certified Management Accountant) designation. I wanted to improve my practical understanding of managerial finance and accounting and to work toward improving my future career prospects. I have completed the CMA examination series, and the CMA track has provided me with a lot more than I was expecting.

Although I took all four parts of the CMA exam while I was in school, I was entering my final year of university study when I took Part 2 and Part 3, which tested the topics that were most relevant to my fields of study—finance and economics. Before completing the exam, I had to work very hard to pass my courses, and nothing made sense to me, but all this changed after I completed Parts 2 and 3. Everything made sense to me, tough courses seemed surprisingly easy, and I did very well in my courses without putting forth any tremendous effort.

I even started pursuing other certifications and charters because I had nothing to lose since the CMA curriculum already provided me with the required practical understanding to excel in all the fields of commerce. The CMA may be a program that specializes in developing one's competency in managerial accounting, but in the previous context the term or general topic referred to includes managerial economics, financial reporting, cost allocation, organizational behavior, investment analysis, and performance evaluation. This is what helped

me to succeed in college and in my other pursuits. I expected the return on my investment in the CMA track to appear in the very late future, but instead I experienced the return even before I graduated.

I graduated in late 2009 when the economy was deep in recession, but I was confident because I was able to go on a lot more interviews than I expected, and the interviewers greatly appreciated my pursuit of

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the CMA. Even though I wasn't and still am not a CMA since I haven't completed the experience requirements, the fact that I have completed and passed the CMA examination reflects the knowledge I have gained in industry. What I like most about the CMA designation is that it is a requirement—or at least an asset—in a wide variety of fields. By pursuing the CMA, I was able and hopefully will still be able to seek and apply for jobs in almost any field and stand out. Today, I am a training associate at Thomson Reuters. I am glad to be working in the investment applications industry, which is the industry that I want to work in, and I aim to grow within it.

I have achieved all my personal goals in the last three years—my post-CMA exam life—and I look forward to achieving even more in the future. **SF**